Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 20, and 26. Please amend claims 3, 5-7, 9, 12,

14-16, 18, 21, 23-25 and 27. Please add new claims 28-30. The currently pending claims after

amendment are listed below.

1 -2. (Cancelled)

1   3.   (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 9, wherein the step of sorting the

2   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3   further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of comparing a sender's address for

2   each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further comprises:

3   comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses

4   including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries containing

5   addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules specified by the

6   user.

1   5.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 3~~ displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at least one

4   criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of corresponding

5   messages;

6   ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

7   displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined sort criteria;

8   wherein the step of sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

9 including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

10 viewing of corresponding messages further comprises sorting the plurality of messages based on a

11 user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

12   wherein the step of sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization

13 of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's address for each

14 message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

15   wherein the step of comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

16 senders' addresses further comprises:

17   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses specified by

18 a user as higher priority than other messages;

19   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

20 automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher priority than

21 other messages;

22   comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses specified by

23 a user as lower priority than other messages; and

24   comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders' addresses

25 automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower priority than

26 other messages.

1 6.   (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 5, wherein the step of ordering the

2 plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's address

4 matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any messages

5 including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the ranked list

6 listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address within any

7 subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an ordered listing

8 of the plurality of messages.

1 7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 9, wherein the step of sorting the

2 plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3 further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified by a user.

8.   (Cancelled)

1 9.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 8~~ displaying electronic mail messages,

2 comprising:

3   sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at least one

4 criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of corresponding

5 messages;

6   ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

7   displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined sort criteria;

8   wherein the step of sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

9 including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

10 viewing of corresponding messages further comprises sorting the plurality of messages based on a

11 user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

12	wherein the step of sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization
13	of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's address within
14	each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of previous messages based upon
15	rules specified by a user;
16	wherein the step of comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses
17	selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a user
18	further comprises at least one of:
19	selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing within a sort
20	order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;
21	selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly than
22	contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;
23	selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than contemporaneous
24	messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;
25	selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than contemporaneous
26	messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and
27	selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening for lower listing
28	within the sort order than other addresses.

10 - 11.   (Cancelled)

1	12. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 18, wherein the means for sorting the
2	plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message
3	further comprises:
4	comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

1   13.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the means for comparing a sender's address

2   for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further comprises:

3   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders'

4   addresses including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries

5   containing addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules

6   specified by the user.

1   14.   (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A system ~~of claim 12~~ for displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   an electronic mail client application;

4   a plurality of messages;

5   means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at

6   least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

7   corresponding messages;

8   means for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

9   means for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined

10   sort criteria;

11   wherein the means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

12   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

13   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises means for sorting the plurality of messages

14   based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

15   wherein the means for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's

17   address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

18   wherein the means for comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

19   senders' addresses further comprises:

20   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

21   specified by a user as higher priority than other messages;

22   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

23   automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher priority than

24   other messages;

25   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders' addresses

26   specified by a user as lower priority than other messages; and

27   means for comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders'

28   addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower

29   priority than other messages.

1   15.   (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 14, wherein the means for ordering

2   the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   means for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4   address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5   messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6   ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7   within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8   ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1   16.   (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 11~~ claim 18, wherein the means for sorting the

2   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message

3   further comprises:

4   means for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified by a

5   user.

17.   (Cancelled)

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080

1   18.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A system ~~of claim 17~~ for displaying electronic mail messages,

2   comprising:

3   an electronic mail client application;

4   a plurality of messages;

5   means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including at

6   least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

7   corresponding messages;

8   means for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria; and

9   means for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-defined

10   sort criteria;

11   wherein the means for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria

12   including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a previous

13   viewing of corresponding messages further comprises means for sorting the plurality of messages

14   based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each message;

15   wherein the means for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises means for comparing a

17   sender's address within each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of previous

18   messages based upon rules specified by a user;

19   wherein the means for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses

20   selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a user

21   further comprises at least one of:

22   means for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing

23   within a sort order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;

24   means for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly than

25   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

26   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

27   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080

28   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

29   contemporaneous messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and

30   means for selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening for

31   lower listing within the sort order than other addresses.

     19 - 20.   (Cancelled)

1   21.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ claim 27, wherein the

2   instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a

3   sender's address for each message further comprises:

4   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses.

1   22.   (Original)   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions for

2   comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses further

3   comprises:

4   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a ranked list of

5   senders' addresses including a set of fixed entries specified by a user and a set of dynamic entries

6   containing addresses selected from historical message tracking information based on rules

7   specified by the user.

1   23.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ A computer program product ~~of claim 21~~ within a computer

2   usable medium for displaying electronic mail messages, comprising:

3   instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including

4   at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of

5   corresponding messages;

6   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort

7   criteria; and

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080

8   instructions for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-

9   defined sort criteria;

10   wherein the instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort

11   criteria including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a

12   previous viewing of corresponding messages further comprises instructions for sorting the

13   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each

14   message;

15   wherein the instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises comparing a sender's

17   address for each message to a ranked list of senders' addresses;

18   wherein the instructions for comparing a sender's address for each message to a ranked list

19   of senders' addresses further comprises:

20   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

21   addresses specified by a user as higher priority than other messages;

22   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

23   addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as higher

24   priority than other messages;

25   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a set of senders'

26   addresses specified by a user as lower priority than other messages; and

27   instructions for comparing the sender's address for each message to a first set of senders'

28   addresses automatically selected based on historical message tracking information as lower

29   priority than other messages.

1   24.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ <u>claim 23</u>, wherein the

2   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria

3   further comprises:

4   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

5   address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

6   messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

7   ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

8   within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

9   ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1   25.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of ~~claim 20~~ <u>claim 27</u>, wherein the

2   instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a

3   sender's address for each message further comprises:

4   instructions for comparing a sender's address within each message to addresses specified

5   by a user.

       26.   (Cancelled)

1   27.   (Currently Amended)   ~~The~~ <u>A</u> computer program product ~~of claim 26~~ <u>within a computer</u>

2   <u>usable medium for displaying electronic mail messages,</u> comprising:

3   <u>instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort criteria including</u>

4   <u>at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological, or based on a previous viewing of</u>

5   <u>corresponding messages;</u>

6   <u>instructions for ordering the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort</u>

7   <u>criteria; and</u>

8   <u>instructions for displaying the plurality of messages in the order specified by the user-</u>

9   <u>defined sort criteria;</u>

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080

10   wherein the instructions for sorting a plurality of messages utilizing user-defined sort

11   criteria including at least one criterion which is not alphabetic, chronological or based on a

12   previous viewing of corresponding messages further comprises instructions for sorting the

13   plurality of messages based on a user-defined prioritization of a sender's address for each

14   message;

15   wherein the instructions for sorting the plurality of messages based on a user-defined

16   prioritization of a sender's address for each message further comprises instructions for comparing

17   a sender's address within each message to addresses selected from a historical tracking of

18   previous messages based upon rules specified by a user;

19   wherein the instructions for comparing a sender's address within each message to

20   addresses selected from a historical tracing of previous messages based upon rules specified by a

21   user further comprises at least one of:

22   instructions for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies for higher listing

23   within a sort order than addresses from messages to which the user never replies;

24   instructions for selecting addresses from messages to which a user replies more quickly

25   than contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

26   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

27   contemporaneous messages for higher listing within the sort order than other addresses;

28   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user opens more quickly than

29   contemporaneous messages for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses; and

30   instructions for selecting addresses from messages which a user deletes without opening

31   for lower listing within the sort order than other addresses.

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080

1 28. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of ordering the plurality of messages

2 according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's address

4 matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any messages

5 including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the ranked list

6 listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address within any

7 subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an ordered listing

8 of the plurality of messages.

1 29. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the means for ordering the plurality of messages

2 according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   means for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4 address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5 messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6 ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7 within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8 ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

1 30. (New) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the instructions for ordering

2 the plurality of messages according to the user-defined sort criteria further comprises:

3   instructions for ordering the plurality of messages with any messages including a sender's

4 address matching an address within a first entry within the ranked list listed first, with any

5 messages including a sender's address matching an address within a second entry within the

6 ranked list listed second, and with any messages including a sender's address matching an address

7 within any subsequent entry within the ranked list listed at a corresponding position within an

8 ordered listing of the plurality of messages.

Docket No.:   ROC920000165US1
Serial No.:   09/751,080